

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:JPLEONARD:BDS

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

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R 112121Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225148

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, RP, CH

SUBJECT: ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HABIB OCTOBER 11.

SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE CHINA POLICY WAS THE SUBJECT OF  
HALF HOUR MEETING BETWEEN ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN AND  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB OCTOBER 11. SHEN REPEATED  
REQUEST THAT US APPROACH GOP, IN HOPE THAT PHILIPPINE  
RECOGNITION OF PRC MIGHT BE DELAYED. MR. HABIB  
EMPHASIZED THAT FILIPINOS WERE WELL AWARE OF US POSI-  
TION ON CHINA, THAT US COULD NOT APPROACH GOP ON THIS  
ISSUE, BUT THAT WE WOULD BEAR IN MIND ROC CONCERNS WHEN  
FILIPINOS SEEK DISCUSSIONS WITH US ON THIS SUBJECT.

1. ROC AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN CALLED ON ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY HABIB OCTOBER 11 IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A  
COURTESY VISIT, AND FOLLOW-UP ON SHEN'S CALL ON THE  
ACTING SECRETARY OCTOBER 9 (REPORTED SEPTTEL). AFTER  
EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, SHEN REFERRED TO HIS DISCUS-  
SION OF PHILIPPINE CHINA POLICY WITH THE ACTING  
SECRETARY AND ASKED IF THE US HAD ANY FURTHER INFORMA-  
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TION ON GOP PLANS OR INTENTIONS. HE SAID THE ROC

HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHEN MANILA MIGHT MOVE AHEAD ON RECOGNIZING THE PRC, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE TRADE DELEGATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES SCHEDULED TO GO TO PEKING THE END OF OCTOBER. MR. HABIB SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION FROM THE FILIPINOS ON WHAT THEIR TIMING

WOULD BE FOR FURTHER MOVES. THEY HAD NOT REALLY CONSULTED OR DISCUSSED THEIR PLANS WITH US, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT MARCOS PROBABLY ALREADY HAD A FIRM NOTION OF WHERE AND HOW FAST HE WANTED TO GO ON THE CHINA ISSUE. MR. HABIB EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOP WAS WELL AWARE OF TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS: THE CHINESE MINORITY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND THE ROC. THESE WOULD CERTAINLY ENTER INTO HIS CALCULATIONS.

2. AS HE HAD WITH MR. INGERSOLL, SHEN STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE US TO REITERATE ITS POSITION ON THE CHINA ISSUE TO THE GOP. HE SAID THE FILIPINOS SEEMED CONVINCED THAT THE US WAS GOING TO WITHDRAW MILITARILY FROM THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND THAT WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF RECOGNIZING PEKING. THE FILIPINOS, HE SAID, HAD TOLD HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THIS WAS THE REASON IT WAS CHANGING ITS CHINA POLICY. SHEN ASKED THAT THE US APPROACH THE GOP AND STATE THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO TAKE THESE ACTIONS. MR. HABIB EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAD GIVEN NO ONE SUCH IMPRESSIONS. PRESIDENT FORD HAD ONLY RECENTLY REAFFIRMED US DETERMINATION TO HONOR OUR COMMITMENTS; WE ARE NOT PULLING OUR FORCES OUT OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC; AND WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE THE IDEA OF RECOGNIZING THE PRC, OR GIVEN ANYONE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO SO.

3. SHEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ROC ACCEPTED THE FACT OF A PHILIPPINE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PEKING, BUT HOPED THAT IT COULD BE DELAYED -- PERHAPS FOR TWO YEARS -- UNTIL IT BECOMES CLEAR WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE MAINLAND. SHEN SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED MANILA FOR SUCH A DELAY, AND HOPED THE US COULD ALSO TALK TO MARCOS ALONG THESE LINES. MR. HABIB REITERATED THAT

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THE GOP WAS WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON CHINA, AND SAID WE COULD NOT FAIRLY ADVISE THEM ALONG THOSE LINES, SINCE THIS WAS A DECISION FOR THE GOP ITSELF TO MAKE. WE WILL WAIT FOR THE FILIPINOS TO COME TO US TO DISCUSS THEIR PLANS, BUT WE WILL BEAR IN MIND ROC CONCERNS WHEN THEY DO. IN THE MEANTIME, THE ROC SHOULD ITSELF BE PREPARED TO TALK WITH THE PHILIPPINES ABOUT WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE PRESERVED BETWEEN

THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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